



FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

Retail Food Code Revision Update

December 2002

ACTIVITY	EXPECTED TIMELINE	DATE COMPLETED
Stakeholder meetings to identify need to revise rule	Summer 2001	Summer 2001
Recommendation to State Board of Health	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2001
File CR101	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2001
Initial Public Meetings	Jan. – Mar. 2002	Mar. 2002
Organize Core Workgroup	June 2002	June 2002
Public Comments on Chapters 1&2 due to DOH	June 19, 2002	June 19, 2002
Hold Initial Core Workgroup	July 31, 2002	July 31, 2002
Special Issue Subcommittees begin	July 2002	July 2002
On-going core workgroup meetings and stakeholder work	July 2002 – April 2003	continuing
Draft final rules	May – June 2003	
Statewide stakeholder meetings	July – Aug. 2003	
Revise draft rules	Sept. – Nov. 2003	
Board of Health briefing	Dec. 2003	
Prepare Significant Analysis and Small Business Impact Statement	Jan. 1, 2004 – July 1, 2004	
File CR 102	Aug. 2004	
Public Hearing	Sept. 2004	
Respond to stakeholder comments, prepare Concise Explanatory Statement	Sept. – Oct. 2004	
File CR 103	Nov. 2004	
Rule becomes law	Dec. 2004	

Recent Issues and Activities

- ♦ The Core Workgroup met in October and December. This broad-based stakeholder group has reviewed and discussed public comments and suggestions for amending chapters 1 through 8 of the FDA Food Code. The Core Workgroup has decided in most instances to maintain the provisions of the FDA Food Code. Four special issue subcommittees have met to consider comments about particularly controversial issues in chapter 3 of the Food Code. Subcommittee recommendations will be considered by the Core Workgroup at meetings in January and February.
- ♦ Local and state public health staff have continued meeting with industry representatives to develop a plan to increase consistency in the interpretation and application of the state food code. A draft process will be shared with all stakeholders within the next few months.

Next Steps

- ♦ A fifth special subcommittee had its first meeting in December to begin discussion on comments regarding issues not addressed in the FDA Food Code. This subcommittee will consider recommendations to add provisions to the proposed Food Code that are in our current state rules regarding such things as temporary establishments, farmers' markets, mobile food establishments, and foods exempted from permitting requirements.
- ♦ The Core Workgroup will continue to meet monthly. Stakeholders interested in providing comments or in getting on the mailing list should contact Ned Therien at (360) 236-3071 or ned.therien@doh.wa.gov

For detailed information about the food rule revision process and related timelines, please see the Department of Health web page at:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/FoodRuleMain.htm>
 or call Jennifer Tebaldi, Office Director, at (360) 236-3325